

# General Environmental Incident Summary

**Incident:** 3775      **Date/Time Notice:** 6/5/2015      1345      **DEM Incident No:**

**Responsible Party:** Unknown

**Date Incident:** 6/4/2015      **Time Incident:** 1524      **Duration:**

**County:** Grand Forks      **Twp:** 151      **Rng:** 50      **Sec:** 3      **Qtr:**

**Lat:** 47.93169      **Long:** -97.04394      **Method:** Interpolation from map

**Location Description:** 926 N 4th St., Grand Forks, ND 58203

**Submitted By:** Javin Bedard

**Affiliation:**

**Address:** 151 S 4th St

Suite N301

**City:** Grand Forks

**State:** ND

**Zip:** 58201

**Received By:**

**Contact Person:**

NA

NA, ND

**Distance Nearest Occupied Building:** 20 Feet

**Release Contained:** Yes

**Type of Incident:** Mercury spill

**Description of Released Contaminant:** Mercury

**Volume Spilled:** 3.00 pounds

**Ag Related:** No

**EPA Extremely Hazardous Substance:** Yes

**Reported to NRC:** Yes

**Cause of Incident:**

unknown

## Risk Evaluation:

Public information release will be issued to try to identify anyone who may have come into direct contact with mercury. Report indicated kids may have been playing with mercury spill which was located near a school.

**# of Fatalities:** 0

**# of Injuries:** 0

**Affected Medium:** 04 - water and soil

## Potential Environmental Impacts:

Spill site was mitigated. Information received indicated that the spill may have occurred Tuesday June 2. Rainfall of 0.9 inches occurred Tuesday and Wednesday. Runoff to storm water drain approximately 30 feet away is possible but not considered likely.

## Action Taken or Planned:

Mercury puddled on sidewalk was removed. Soil and organic matter alongside sidewalk was removed where mercury was observed along the edge.

**Wastes Disposal Location:** Will contact Safety Clean for disposal.

**Agencies Involved:** Local Fire Department, Local Law Enforcement, Local Emergency Manager

## Updates

---

**Date:** 6/7/2015    **Status:** Reviewed - Follow-up Required

**Author:** Tintes Schiwal, Emily

**Updated Volume:** 6.00 pounds

### Notes:

After Grand Forks Public Health (GFPH) sent out a press release on Friday 6/5/15, a family called and said their children found the container from which the mercury had been spilled and brought it home. The container still had approximately 3 lbs. of mercury inside of it when brought to the home, so the volume is larger than first thought. The family was evacuated from their home and sheltered by the Red Cross. The family and other potentially affected individuals were also being monitored by Altru Hospital. GFPH officials were airing out the home and monitoring it to ensure no one went inside over the weekend. GFPH has been checking with various environmental contractors but were unable to find one with the proper Lumex machine to detect low levels of mercury. EPA OSC is sending a team from Denver to Grand Forks that will arrive on Monday 6/8/15. This team will have proper detection instruments to check the family's home and will initiate proper cleanup as they deem necessary for the situation. At this time, the responsible party is still considered to be "unknown". Christine Roob from the NDDoH Hazardous Waste Program will be on site on Monday when EPA arrives to monitor cleanup activities.

---

**Date:** 6/25/2015    **Status:** Reviewed - No Action Required

**Author:** Roob, Christine

**Updated Volume:**

### Notes:

On Monday, June 8, the EPA deployed the Superfund Technical Assessment & Response Team (START) for arrived. Seven homes, a school, and a business were identified as requiring an evaluation to see if mercury contamination was present from tracking on shoes or contaminated articles being present. June 8th and 9th, Grand Forks City personnel, a representative from the ND Dept. of Health, Division of Waste Management, an EPA representative and the START Team screened the locations for mercury contamination. The school and business were cleared of any significant exposure.

Three homes had mercury contaminated articles that were removed for proper disposal. The other three homes were cleared of any significant mercury exposure. One home required more extensive cleanup and a remediation crew was activated. The remediation crew arrived at 7 p.m. on June 9 and the remediation of this home and the original sidewalk spill site started. The contaminated concrete, sod and soil at the original spill site were either removed or remediated and cleared by June 11. The remaining home was remediated and eventually released back to the family on June 20.

The source of the mercury was not determined.

The mercury contaminated soil and other materials removed from the homes will be properly disposed of once analytical results from the testing of these materials are received.

More detailed information can be found on the On Scene Coordinators - US EPA Region 8's webpage: [http://www.epaosc.org/site/site\\_profile.aspx?site\\_id=10991](http://www.epaosc.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=10991)